



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lassen  
National  
Forest

Hat Creek Ranger District  
P.O. Box 220  
Fall River Mills, CA 96028  
(530) 336-5521 Voice/TTY  
(530) 336-5758 Fax

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July 26, 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The Hat Creek Ranger District, Lassen National Forest is initiating scoping for the Crossroads Project (Project) located approximately 2 miles northeast of Burney, California and is within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest administered by the Lassen National Forest (LNF). The project area extends north from the junction of Highways 299 and 89 (Four Corners) to Lake Britton: Township 36 North, Range 3 East, Sections 3-6, 8-9, 17, 19, 21-22, 26-28, 30, 31, 34-35 and Township 37 North, Range 5 East, Sections 17-19, and 30, Mount Diablo Meridian. The Project is within the Burney-Hat Creek Basins Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) area.

As part of the CFLRP, we evaluated the Crossroads Project area for opportunities to implement forest health and hazardous fuels reduction activities as well as improve watershed condition. The activities proposed in the Project would increase landscape level resilience to future disturbance events including fire, insects, disease, and drought; decrease fuel loads; enhance oak woodlands; improve ingress and egress; and refine the transportation system to provide safe public access and travel.

The Hat Creek Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal will fall within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 32.3, Categories by Statute, Section 603 of HFRA (16 U.S.C. 6591.b) Insect and Disease Infestation.

Section 603 establishes a categorical exclusion for qualifying insect and disease projects in designated areas on National Forest System Lands. An insect and disease project that may be categorically excluded under this authority is a project that is designed to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, insect or disease infestation in the areas (HFRA, Sections 602(d) and 603(a)).

Pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-76) and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) (Pub. L. No. 113-79), projects that are categorically excluded are not subject to pre-decisional administrative review or administrative appeal. Further, they are not subject to legal notice and comment under the pre-decisional administrative review process (36 CFR 218.23).

The Proposed Action and Purpose and Need are available on the Lassen National Forest web page at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=55825](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=55825). The Forest Service is



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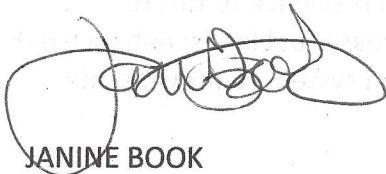


seeking your input as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. Please respond by August 31, 2019, so your comments may be fully considered as we move through the decision-making ("NEPA") process with this project.

Comments, written or oral, may be submitted to: Janine Book, District Ranger, Hat Creek Ranger District, PO Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028, (530) 336-5521, FAX: (530) 336-3337, during normal business hours. Hat Creek Ranger District Office's business hours are from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-hat-creek@fs.fed.us using Subject: Crossroads Project. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, are part of the public record for this proposed action.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in October 2019. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For additional information on the project, please contact Jeff Durkin, District Silviculturist, by phone at (530) 336-5521.

Sincerely,



JANINE BOOK  
District Ranger